

DOCUMENTS

SHOWING

The description and value of the arms taken from a party of Texans, within the Territory of the United States, by Capt. Cooke, 1st Reg't Dragoons, June 30, 1843, and deposited at Fort Leavenworth, Mo.

JANUARY 8, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed, to accompany bill S. No. 37

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT LEAVENWORTH,
4th August, 1844.

SIR : I have to acknowledge the receipt of the communication, addressed me from your office by Capt. Freeman, Assistant Adjutant General, on the subject of the arms, &c., taken from a party of Texans on the 30th June, 1843, by Capt. P. St. G. Cooke; and I now transmit a return of those arms, and a report of a board of officers convened by my order, for the purpose of furnishing the information desired by Captain Freeman for the Department of State.

I understand from the president of the board that the value placed upon the several arms is rather their worth, with respect to condition when seized, and their probable cost, than their value *here*, and *now*.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. WHARTON,

Major 1st Dragoons, commanding.

Brigadier General JONES,

Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

Proceedings of a board of survey convened at Fort Leavenworth by virtue of the following orders, viz :

Orders, } HEAD QUARTERS, FORT LEAVENWORTH, Mo.
No. 85. } *August 3, 1844.*

Extract.

A board of officers, to consist of Capt. Moore, 1st dragoons, 1st Lieut. Johnson, and bvt. 2d Lieut. McClelland, 3d infantry, will assemble this morning at half past 9 o'clock, and proceed to ascertain "the number, description, and condition, and as nearly as may be the value of the arms taken from a party of Texans on the 30th of June, 1843, by Capt. P. St.

Ritchie & Heiss, print.

Geo. Cooke, commanding a detachment of U. S. dragoons," and which arms are now in possession of the ordnance sergeant, by whom they will be shown the board. As the report of the board is intended for the Department of State, the board will be as minute as possible in stating the variety, condition, and value of the respective arms.

By order of Major Wharton:

S. C. HAMMOND,

Bvt. 2d Lieut. 1st Dragoons—Post Adjutant.

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FORT LEAVENWORTH, August 3, 1844.

The board met pursuant to the above orders: present, all the members.

The board then proceeded to the careful examination of a number of arms presented by Sergeant Hemming, ordnance sergeant at Fort Leavenworth, being those taken from a party of Texans by Capt. P. St. Geo. Cooke, viz: Thirty flint lock rifles, valued at eighteen dollars each, including the barrel of one which has no stock, which appears to have been lost in transportation. Twelve percussion rifles, valued at twenty-two dollars and fifty cents, including the barrel of one which has no stock, which appears to have been lost in transportation. Fifteen English flint lock shot guns, valued at ten dollars each. Three tower pieces, valued at sixteen dollars each. One large American flint lock shot gun, valued at twenty dollars. Two double barrelled flint lock shot guns, stub and twist, valued at fifty dollars each. Four percussion lock double barrelled shot guns, stub and twist, valued at sixty five dollars each. Three half stock Middletown rifles, percussion lock, valued at eighteen dollars each. One full stock percussion lock, valued at eighteen dollars. One half-stock flint lock Middletown rifle, valued at eighteen dollars. Two American dragoon carbines, valued at seventeen dollars each. One American and two Texas muskets, valued at sixteen dollars each. Four pairs of flint lock holster pistols, valued at twenty dollars a pair. Two pairs percussion lock pistols, valued at forty dollars a pair. Eight flint lock holster pistols, odd, valued at ten dollars apiece. Seven percussion lock belt pistols, valued at fifteen dollars apiece. One percussion lock duelling pistol, valued at forty dollars. One sabre and scabbard, brass mounted, valued at ten dollars. One steel mounted sabre, no scabbard, valued at ten dollars. One steel sword and scabbard, valued at ten dollars.

The board are of opinion that the arms are considerably injured from rust, and many of them broken, apparently from transportation from the place of capture.

B. D. MOORE,

Capt. 1st Dragoons.

B. R. JOHNSON,

1st Lieut. 3d Infantry.

GEO. C. McCLELLAND,

Bvt. 2d Lieut. 3d Infantry.

The above is the original official record.

C. WHARTON,

Major 1st Dragoons, commanding.

Return of arms taken from a party of Texans, by Capt. P. St. G. Cooke, 1st Regt. Dragoons, June 30, 1843, within the territory of the United States, and now deposited in the ordnance store at Fort Leavenworth, Missouri.

No.	Description of arms.
30	Flint lock rifles.
12	Percussion rifles.
15	English flint lock shot guns.
3	Tower pieces.
1	Large American flint lock shot gun.
2	Double barrelled flint lock, stub and twist, shot guns.
4	Percussion lock, double barrelled, stub and twist, shot guns.
3	Half-stock, percussion lock, Middletown rifles.
1	Full stock, percussion lock, Middletown rifle.
1	Half-stock, flint lock, Middletown rifle.
2	American dragoon carbines.
1	American musket.
2	Texas muskets.
4	Pairs flint lock holster pistols.
2	Pairs percussion lock pistols.
8	Flint lock holster pistols.
7	Percussion lock belt pistols.
1	Percussion lock duelling pistol.
1	Sabre and scabbard, brass mounted.
1	Sabre, no scabbard, steel mounted.
1	Steel sword and scabbard.

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT LEAVENWORTH,
August 5, 1844.

C. WHARTON,
Major 1st Dragoons, commanding.

such a case vary from this, except that there the injury or damage could by some computation be ascertained, whereas here it is incalculable?"

The government has made attempts to remove these obstructions, but has failed, and is still bound to make exertions, because the attempts made were through agents of its own appointment and under its own exclusive direction.

The vast importance of the work to this city, to the State of Georgia, and to those States south and west of her, and the great amount of their productions which will find, on the completion of our railroads, their outlet over the Savannah bar as the safest, the most convenient, the shortest, quickest, and the cheapest passage to the great marts of the world, demand the appropriation. Duty not only to this city and State and those south and west of it, but to our general commerce, demands the appropriation. An improved navigation will not only benefit American producers, merchants, and ship owners, but promote trade from every quarter.

The bar at the mouth of the Savannah river is one of the finest inlets from the ocean, being unchangeable, and at high water of twenty-five feet depth. Very few equal it in facility and plainness of entrance. A stranger, with the Coasting Pilot in his hand, even during a gale, might run over the bar into good and safe anchorage. When the amount required for the removal of these obstructions shall be compared with the advantages to be gained, it cannot but be deemed a wise expenditure; and when the small amount which Georgia has received for such purposes shall be compared with that which some other States have had appropriated to them, it will be considered by her sister States a just expenditure, and one which will not only do justice to the claims of Georgia, but largely benefit her trade, and especially the shipping interests of the United States, by making more accessible an important port for inward and outward freights.

BENJ. EWD. STILES,
Acting President.

ROBT. HABERSHAM,
Vice President.

CHARLES GREEN, *Secretary.*

W. B. Bullock, collector
John Lewis, deputy collector
R. M. Goodwin, chairman com-
missioners of pilotage
John C. Nicoll
W. H. Bullock
Wm. Horne Williams
Geo. Glen
E. B. Cummins
John N. Lewis
Noble A. Hardee
William Duncan
Andrew Corr, jr.
L. Baldwin
Elias Bird
John Boston
Samuel Solomons
Montgomery Cummins

J. Olmstead
Jos. Cummins
M. Myers
O'Driscoll & Co.
Jos. W. Roberts
Jos. H. Burroughs
Austin R. Gordon
Jno. H. Reid
C. F. Mills
Henry Harper
James Rhind, sen.
Tho. H. Horner
G. N. Neyle
Stephen Hills
Cohen & Fosdick
J. M. Wiley
F. W. Heinemann
H. K. Preston

J. Washburn & Wilder
 Way & King
 C. A. L. Lamar
 Geo. Gordon
 A. Lafitte
 Cohen, Norris & Co.
 Gowdy & Welles
 Hamilton, Hardeman & Co.
 Locke & Davis
 Jeremiah Clark
 Otis Johnson
 Robt. A. Lewis
 H. K. Burroughs, M. D., may-
 or of the city of Savannah
 Henry Roser
 Edw. Padelford

G. S. Harding
 Jno. E. Davis
 Saml. B. Palmer
 H. G. Richards
 L. F. Nicoll
 Theodore Minis
 C. Stephens
 J. W. Webster
 John Carruthers
 J. George
 Frederick A. Tupper
 A. S. Wall
 Jno. Bostell
 John Rice
 Robert M. Charlton
 Andrew Corr & Co.

GEORGIA, *Chatham County.*

Before me, John C. Nicoll, district judge of the United States for the district of Georgia, personally appeared Elijah Broughton, pilot of the bar and river Savannah, who, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that he came to the State of Georgia in the year 1785, and that he commenced his career of pilot for the bar and river Savannah in the year 1790; that his predecessors and contemporaries in the pilotage informed him that, previous to the sinking of the wrecks during the revolutionary war, they could readily navigate ships drawing eighteen feet water up to the city; that, at that time, the wrecks sunk during the revolutionary war across the channel below the city were perceptible, and impeded the passage of any vessel drawing over twelve feet water; that a freshet in the river had washed them round so that, at that time, they lay fore-and-aft, up and down the channel; and that, in 1796, the Yazoo freshet deepened the channel between the wrecks, so that, by nice steering, with a favorable wind and tide, thirteen feet could be carried up and down; that, in 1799, the commissioners of pilotage employed one Stephen Culver, who raised three of the wrecks and removed them from the channel; that now fourteen and fourteen and a half feet (the result of the operations of the commissioners of pilotage and freshets) can be carried up and down through a new channel washed near the bank which was created by the wrecks; and further states that the bar at the mouth of the Savannah river does not change; and that vessels drawing twenty-five feet can be navigated over it at high water.

ELIJAH BROUGHTON.

Sworn to before me this 16th day of December, 1845.

JNO. C. NICOLL,
United States District Judge.